

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 16 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 17 and 18 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14 and 17-21 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 3, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-14 are allowed, and that claims 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form and that claims 17-21 are now allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-118348. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated.

Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 118348 in view of "Official Notice" The Japanese Patent Application. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated.

Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 10/823,742

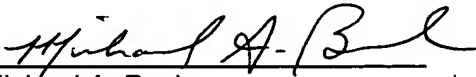
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: July 17, 2006

By: 
Michael A. Bush
Registration No. 48,893

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501